

**Sgoil Ghhlaidhlig Ghlaschu Comhairle nam Parant
(Sgoil Ghhlaidhlig Glaschu, Parent Council)**

**Coinneamh Fhosgailte
(Open Meeting)**

31 March 2011 7.00pm

Minutes of Meeting

Present

Donalda McComb
Bruce Whyte
Rona MacDonald
Morna Cowie
Margaret McGrath

Apologies

D-I Brown
Natalie

Correspondence

Facilities Update

BW reported on the update on the work on the new blaes pitch, reading email from DRS. The project is proceeding and investigation work was carried out this week. The estimated date of completion will be mid-September 2011. The project has been planned to come within the £350k budget. The completion date has slipped, but all pressing for completion for the start of the new school term in August. There will be a 3m high fence surrounding with 5m on the housing side of the pitch. The pitch will be 3G synthetic playing surface.

Any objections of note or quantity to the project will be referred to Edinburgh planning dept.

Head Teacher's Report

Staffing Update

DMcC reported on the lack of PSA posts update within Glasgow. The School has argued our requirement for Gaelic speaking staff. The School has been allocated 120 hours PSA support for the Primary and 15 hours for the Secondary. Posts will be advertised week commencing 7 April on the GCC website and the relevant press to attract interest. These positions are to assist pupils with additional support needs and disclosures are required when taking up these positions. DMcC will decided how the breakdown of the hours allocated should be used.

The School currently has 1 FT and 2PT positions. With the new allocated hours there could be up to 6PT positions. This is a big change to this resource level and very good news for the School.

There is still a staff shortage in the School office with one member of staff on long-term sick leave. With the curb in advertising and the increase in office workload including a big increase in loading information onto the systems. All the office staff have been working hard to achieve all goals and the School greatly appreciates their commitment. The School office is a very busy one and the office staff go over and above to ensure it runs smoothly.

BW asked about the possibility of temporary cover for the person off on long-term sick leave but there has been no news as yet. DMcC noted that the PSA staff may be able to help out.

DMcC noted that The Hub is now based within the School and we have access to their Support Managers who also help out.

DMcC advised the meeting that Monica Horn, Technical Teacher has injured her back and is currently in hospital and the School is looking for a supply teacher to cover her duties.

DMcC also advised the meeting the Nellie MacIntyre is currently on maternity leave. Patricia McLeod is acting DHT role, but cannot take full responsibility until Annette Brown returns from her maternity leave in May.

There have been 71 placing requests so far for this year's P1 intake leaving a staffing requirement for 3 teachers. The School has some members of staff covering supply posts and we wish to retain them. The School will be using 2 more classrooms and one GP room for the projected role of 75 (3 classes of 25).

There will be 28 possibly 30 children coming into 1st year in August. This now gives a role of 338 in the primary and 171 in the Secondary.

Communication

DMcC noted that parents have been looking for more regular information. Currently the school uses text messaging, De tha dol and the website, but an email newsletter system will be looked at also.

Currently the office staff are collating the Secondary newsletter (20 pages) and this will be available online via the website.

DMcC informed the meeting that Miss Campbell and Mrs McLeod have submitted a £k bid for playground improvements.

DMcC advised the meeting that a letter has gone out with regard to the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Currently the School has S3 and S5 pupils completing their Bronze Award. They are for completion is an expedition. The letter is asking if we have any parents who can help with a leader position. We can get a leader, but we need to raise the funding for it. Currently 17/18 pupils would be going on the expedition and we would need parent helpers.

BW noted that there was a member of Comm na Ghlaidhlig who might be able to help and parent at the meeting Alistair Neill also said he could be available to help.

BW updated the meeting on the Dover Street project adjacent to the School. This project consists of an outdoor gym play area and a multi-use games area. The School should be able to use these facilities during the daytime and they are planned for completion by Easter.

School Uniform Update

Sharon Gow updated the meeting by advising that the School Uniform sub-group has been dissolved last year as member had moved away, but they had now 're-grouped' and reorganised. The group had over-bought on stock last year and were currently endeavouring to sell off this excess stock. £490 was raised by a sale in the School on 30 March and they will continue to sell off the excess.

There will be a new order form going out to all parents on 18 April to order new uniforms and this will be delivered in August.

The Group are still looking for volunteers to process and pack all orders – please contact Sharon Gow. There will be a message in the next De tha dol re this. BW reminded the meeting that the sale of school uniforms also raised funds for the School.

Fund-raising

BW informed the meeting about how the School plans to allocate any monies raised through fundraising:

- 40% school activities
- 10% contingency fund
- 50% available for bids from sub-committees

It was noted that there should be some form of paper trail to show where the fund raising money is used and show the spend.

BW also raised the matter of the bequest money left to the School last year. There is £89,632K in a GCC fund, currently not earning interest. The School needs to decide how it is to be spent.

DMcC noted that it may a possibility to change the name of the Fundraising group to a more social name in the hope of attracting more parents to organise events and social activities in the School. It was noted that the Summer and Christmas Fayres have a good and successful format and that a bag-packing day had been arranged at Sainsbury's this December and that these days were usually very successful for raising funds.

The School has a current requirement for sports strips, sports equipment and various other items and that all has to be managed. ICT requirements were a major focus for a number of years within the School. Any funds raised have to be fairly dispersed and although the School Fund Account currently holds £17.5K, it is all allocated, to projects such as the Biology Dept presentations, music groups, Secondary disco, raffles for the primary and bus costs for the School trips.

It was also noted that commission levels raised by the School photographs were good for funds too.

Parents asked if there was a possibility that the legacy money could be used for some sort of parent's room or space within the school. DMcC advised that it had been specifically left to develop the use of Gaelic and that the School was so short of space that a specific parents pace would be unlikely.

Quality Review

DMcC updated the meeting on the recent Quality review with was carried out over 3 weeks. There was a lot of work to prepare, followed by a strict timetable and 12 quality improvement officers who visited all the classrooms in the School investigating all aspects of school life. Their remit is to look at how effective the School is. The QI officers spoke to pupils from all year groups and to all staff.

There is a questionnaire system with every 5 parents in the Primary receiving one and all parents in the Secondary and all pupils in the Secondary receiving one.

The draft report will be published and ready to discuss with staff and the Education dept after the Easter holidays. There will be an opportunity to discuss the final report and it will be shared with all parents. This review links closely with HMI and has been a very worthwhile process for the School to go through.

Parent-Teacher Consultation Day

BW noted that the School was now in its 5th year and a day is to be planned to 'take stock', to look at where the School is going. We will be looking to get as many parents, teachers and Secondary pupils as possible to attend the event and it would be best to hold this on a Saturday morning or afternoon before end of June (provisionally 21 may 2011).

We would look at possibly having an external facilitator and the focus would be on deciding items such as where to spend the bequest money. For example, ideas for consideration and discussion could be a bursary or exchange visit programme, or how to further develop sport in the School or music and drama.

It was communicated that we need to attract as many parents as possible to the meeting. It would be a well structured meeting with as much notice as possible and information passed via the website, text and De tha dol.

RMcD commented that there were 54 people in attendance at the last consultation and that it had been a very successful event. There has to be a strong link to the School and realistic and practical ideas would be the things that worked.

DMcC commented that now was a good time in the School's history to host such an event with the recent Quality review giving us a clear focus on areas to look at.

Susan Galloway suggested an agenda of ideas could be issued in advance for people to think about. This consultation day was generally considered by the meeting as a good idea.

Ideas for agenda:

Sport within the School

Legacy Money

Drama

School facilities – capacity

Pupil Voice

Communication

Gaelic Language Policy – Secondary

Need for Parental Support

Gaelic in the home

Action – PC to arrange and plan day

Sports Glaschu

BW informed the meeting of this new umbrella organisation that has been formed to support sport and sport through Gaelic in Glasgow. It will involve a variety of sports. Students in Glasgow who are Gaelic speakers can get involved and the organisation was in the process of agreeing a constitution.

There is secured funding through GCC for coaching qualifications, currently for Shinty, first-aid and football in English and the next stage is to delivery coaching in Gaelic. One area for development is how to use Gaelic and coaching for the younger pupils.

With the current requirement for strips the School will subscribe to the www.musicmagpie.com scheme to collect 500 cd's and DVD's to obtain a set of strips. Flier to go out.

It was noted that the School is also currently registered for the Daily Record vouchers for sports kit scheme too.

Action – information available through Bruce Whyte

Music Sub-Committee

RMcD noted that the sub-group for music and drama supported the Glasgow Music Festival with the largest participation to date and a good number of winners.

Glasgow Gaelic School

Primary & Secondary - Drama Provision Map

Background

The Music & Drama Sub-Group of the Parent Council have agreed to produce a position paper on drama provision at the Glasgow Gaelic School and to link into the Glasgow Drama Forum (GDF) which looks at Drama across the city.

The GDF includes everyone involved in Gaelic Drama, the National Theatre for Scotland, RSAMD, Glasgow Life and some interested individuals.

Current Provision/Opportunities

Drama in Primary School.

Drama is taught as part of the curriculum every year from P1-P7.

Pupils use their skills to perform at assemblies, Christmas (P1-P3) and Spring term P4-P7.

There are opportunities throughout the year for children to attend performances in Gaelic Medium. Sometimes theatre groups come to the school and sometimes the pupils go to other venues.

There is an annual Feis Oigridh, usually held at the Mitchell Theatre every April where every GME Primary establishment from the different local authorities perform. This is organised by the staff in the schools since the adult committee disbanded in 2000.

Drama in Secondary School

Drama provision is available at secondary level at S1 & S2. This is in English. Pupils are not able to study for a certificate exam in drama, whether taught through English or Gaelic. There are a number of workshops and extra-curricular events across Glasgow City which are promoted/supported by different organisations.

Feis Ghlaschu is an annual Feis in Glasgow which occasionally provides children with a drama workshop option.

Film making opportunities are available to older children through week long workshops by Glasgow Life.

Opportunities/Ideas

Develop Gaelic Drama opportunities through the formal curriculum

It is essential that the GCC education department work towards Gaelic provision in drama. Drama is an empowering tool for young people to help them develop their confidence and their voice. For Gaelic language, it is an excellent opportunity to develop their language and be given the opportunity to express themselves in this medium. Working with traditional and contemporary texts is an ideal learning opportunity and helps develop the young people's Gaelic identity.

Action: Music/ Drama Sub Group – approach Bòrd na Ghaidhlig to establish whether we can secure funds to provide top up qualifications to develop pool of qualified teachers. Meet with Glasgow City Council to discuss Drama's importance.

- Establish a Theatre/Drama Interest Group at the school (Secondary – visiting theatre shows, back stage tours, Meeting directors and actors)
- Develop opportunities through extra-curricular activity with partner agencies
- Continue involvement with Feis Oigridh
- Build on and integrate opportunities from the Glasgow Gaelic Arts Strategy

Action - RMcD suggested a focus group should be arranged to take music and drama forward. The date of the next music and drama sub-group is 27 April 2011.

RMcD noted that the School has been very supportive of the local Mod to be held in June. The School has been helping the pupils participating to get ready and the sub-group will gather views on the support. It was noted that the National Mod had a lesser role. DMcC commented that the School's focus has been on the local Mod and the School staff have helped in particular areas, ie poetry. Not all the children have been involved in the Mod and it was raised that possibly the parents do not have enough information. See below minutes for information:

Extract for Minutes of Music Sub-Group

The Local (Glasgow) Mod and National Mods in 2011 were discussed at the Music Sub-Group meeting in October last year and I've extracted the relevant sections of the minutes of the meeting:

Local Mod, June 2011

- Discussion around whether music categories could be widened to include folk groups, whistle, accordion and traditional piano

National Mod, October 2011

- The Group felt it would be good for SGG to have a presence at this Mod and representation - maybe from individuals and also the SGG Choir. Discussed that it would be useful to revive the booklet which had previously been produced as a guide for parents to the local and national Mods.

Summary of issues and suggested way forward

Item	Questions	Action/ responsibility
School's role in Mòd preparation	<p>Can it be taught across the C for E?</p> <p>Does the music sub group have the time to help teachers co-ordinate this (bearing in mind</p>	Take forward at facilitation day in June

	<p>teachers are stretched already)?</p> <p>Should the choir be seen as something essential in the Mods? And are the structures & resources in place to allow this to happen?</p> <p>Do all parents/ teachers/ pupils want this?</p> <p>Ensure that parents get an induction into Mòd on P1 (pamphlet already created for this) – detailing competitions and entry age.</p>	<p>Action: Up-date pamphlet</p> <p>Action: Point all parents to mòd website (it's excellent) and link in with school website</p>
<p>Role of the school, parents and pupils for this year's National Mod in Stornoway</p>	<p>Moving forward from disappointments for this year's Mòd – can we aim to have a large involvement Dunoon and definitely, at Paisley the following year?</p> <p>Find out who is going to Mòd in Stornoway and find ways to support this (on a smaller scale</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>Music Sub group & School</p>
	<p>As far as secondary is concerned - SMT have a broad agreement that the school should have a higher profile at Mods.</p> <p>However there are loads of issues and problems to be sorted such</p>	<p>This is good news</p>

	<p>as when do pupils practise things (at lunchtime? too short so they don't show up, and who is responsible (or even free due to playground supervision) After school ?- many kids bussed home straight away.</p> <p>Should poetry, drama, and literary entries all be the responsibility of the Gaelic dept which has umpteen other demands on its curriculum time such as Film G, BBC School report. Many of the other teachers not Gaelic speakers. Therefore a workable realistic plan for Mod participation needs to be agreed upon by all parties.</p>	<p>To be discussed at school</p> <p>Can this be taken forward in the Gaelic Arts Plan from Glasgow Life</p>
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DMcC noted that there were issues with regard to the National Mod in October with school holidays. The School will review and consult pupils to see who wishes to participate and perform.

There is a requirement for more parents to become involved in the local Mod and information on this will be published via the School and GCC websites.

This again could be a potential subject for discussion at the Consultation Day.

The local Mod will be held this year on 18 June.

Update from Glasgow Parent Council Forum

Susan Galloway represented the School on at the last meeting in John Wheatley House. 40 attended the meeting, from primary, secondary and special needs schools throughout Glasgow. The main item on the agenda was budgets and education budget cuts.

Please see below for Susan's notes from the meeting:

Education Budget

The meeting took place just after Glasgow CC had set its 2011/2012 budget. Maureen McKenna, Service Director for Education gave a briefing in which she explained the education decisions, underpinning which is the decision to focus solely on "core business".

My reading of her presentation is: that the main burden of budget reductions falls on staff, who are being called on to deliver a quality service, with all the additional demands of Curriculum for Excellence, and in some instances with larger class sizes (eg S1 & S2 Maths & English) while experiencing reductions in pay, pensions, terms & conditions. The McCrone agreement is being reviewed. The reductions place a lot of additional pressures on head teachers, who will need to manage the effects of budget decisions in a number of areas. The second main effect is on the most vulnerable. Some of the cuts in areas considered 'not core business' involve interventions designed to boost their chances of succeeding – although the Council is doing its best to maintain others.

PSA Allocation

Brenda Wallace, Area Education Manager, gave an update on the 'ASL review' – additional support for learning – being carried out and explained how the new formula would work in future. A preliminary audit found that 47% of pupils in Glasgow schools have special needs requiring intervention at some level – an indicator of the scale of poverty and deprivation in the city. There is also a parallel consultation ongoing at the moment on the future of Glasgow's ASL or 'special' schools, some of which the Council proposes to close. The meeting was attended by a delegation of angry parents opposed to the plans, whose disabled children attend Gadburn & St Raymond schools.

Consultation on Breakfast Clubs

You will know about, as presumably our Parent Council was written to and invited to give its views. There was time for a very brief discussion about GFPC's own submission.

Some points of interest:

After-School Provision – GCC currently subsidises after school provision by contributing £400,000 pa towards the costs of school lets. The savings include a new system for allocating this subsidy to after-schools. It will result in some gainers and losers with implications for providers and users. The education officer responsible will give a presentation on this at the next meeting of GPCF.

A review of Early Years provision forms part of the budget cuts. This will involve Child Development Officers & nursery teachers being mobile and transferable across centres. It also involves a review of charging policy. Before making any changes to charges, Maureen McKenna has commissioned research to look at the combined impact of child tax credit and other government benefit changes on family income.

School librarians are being withdrawn – there were complaints about this from several schools.

ASL support – many parents reported their schools were down on their entitlement of ASL staff (PSAs), in some cases meaning pupils had been without the support to which they were entitled, for over a year. The education officer explained that the full complement of GCC ASL staffing is 400, but there are currently 100 vacant posts. This is due to staff being allowed to take voluntary redundancy in the last sweep. This situation will not be resolved immediately – it

is tied into an ongoing recruitment freeze, and a redeployment process involving staff made redundant by the 'arm's length' company CORDIA.

Parental Involvement – there is to be a review of this, more details to follow.

Positive Points

The budget given to schools for educational supplies – jotters, pencils etc – has increased by 7% (on top of a 10% increase last year).

Nurture classes are being extended into early years provision.

Continuing to invest in Triple P parenting classes and Families in Partnership Projects (which help vulnerable P6 & P7 pupils prepare for secondary).

Glasgow continues to close the gap in Higher qualifications.

School exclusions continue to fall.

Action - The date of the next meeting is 18 May at 7pm in Wheatley House and Susan Galloway can attend again although the School can send more than one person and it would be great to support Susan.

Transport Review

The review of transport to and from the School is currently underway. GCC are currently looking at reducing the number of buses and adopting a more holistic approach to improving the current situation. The committee is not aware of the implications as yet, there will be a separate meeting to discuss this and all the changes.

Action – transport meeting to be arranged and communicated to all.

AOB

Date of Next Meeting

26 May 2011 at 6.30pm in the School library, Parent Council meeting combined with transport meeting.